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## REVIEWS AND NOTES.

### MORTALITY STATISTICS OF THE REGISTRATION AREA OF THE UNITED STATES, 1910.

It is a pleasure to be able to record the fact that at least two important innovations will be made in the *Mortality Statistics* of the Bureau of the Census, beginning with the report for 1910. First, mortality by days of age will be tabulated for the first three weeks of life and by months for the first two years of life. Second, detail information, including principal causes of death with distinction of age and sex, will be given for the more important elements of the foreign-born population — Irish, German, Italian, etc.

These improvements in the annual mortality reports will undoubtedly result in a most valuable addition to our knowledge of infant mortality and the comparative vitality of the foreign-born. In no country is it more important and desirable that information of this kind be as full and reliable as possible than in the United States, and, on the other hand, in no other great civilized country have the opportunities for the collection of the facts been more completely neglected than in this country.

The new information which will be available with the publication of the Census *Mortality Statistics* of 1910 should prove of great interest and importance, for then, it is safe to say, no other country in the world will have so large a body of facts on the problems involved, and available in so convenient a form. The comparative mortality of the various nativity elements, particularly, will be unique, for nothing quite like it will be available elsewhere to students of ethnography. As an illustration of the great need of such data in this country, it may be stated that they would have proven of immense benefit to the Immigration Commission in its recent extensive investigation; for, in spite of the great importance of the subject of comparative mortality of the foreign-born elements, almost no reliable information was ready at hand and whatever data were secured had to be compiled from original sources at considerable expense,

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### A CENTURY OF POPULATION GROWTH IN THE UNITED STATES. 1790-1900.

Nations, like individuals, private or corporate undertakings and other institutions should occasionally take an inventory of their stock or resources, so that they may measure their status against the past and be better able to forecast the future. Progress and decline are relative and involve the time or historical element, and historical reviews or surveys are of great value from this viewpoint. They are also of impor-

tance for the many lessons which they teach by bringing to light numerous facts which would either not be revealed at all otherwise, or, if so, not nearly so significantly as by the historical and comparative method of treatment.

Mr. W. S. Rossiter, chief clerk of the Bureau of the Census, has performed a most valuable service in the report under review, for in this volume of 303 pages are packed facts so numerous and so significant that it is absolutely necessary for the student of the history of the United States to read and ponder its contents if he would gain the truest insight into the economic development of this country from 1790 to 1900. This statement might even be extended to include the Colonial period for census methods and results in the various colonies previous to 1790 are discussed and summarized in an admirable manner in the first chapter entitled "Population in the Colonial and Continental Periods." A most valuable feature of this first chapter and of the report, generally, is the reproduction of some of the old maps, now for the most part rare and difficult of access. Among these may be mentioned "Boston, with Its Environs," "New York, with the Adjacent Rocks and Other Remarkable Parts of Hell-Gate, 1778," "Plan of the City of New York, 1789," and "Plan of Philadelphia, 1794." Supplementing the discussion there are thirty-seven full pages (149-185) of tables, giving in detail the enumerations of population in North America prior to 1790.

Chapter II is entitled "The United States in 1790" and in twenty-six pages such important topics as boundaries, area, currency, transportation, postal service, industries, education, newspapers and periodicals, slavery and Indians are discussed and, so far as may be, in the light of statistics gathered in the census of 1790.

Chapter III deals briefly with the census of 1790 including the debates in Congress, the first Census Act, the manner in which the law was executed, the enumerators' schedules, the enumeration and the returns. The original purpose of this volume was to discuss the historical aspects of the First Census and to present such statistics as could be compiled from the limited and incomplete returns of the first enumeration of the population. As this original purpose was being carried out it was found that the study could be made more valuable by extending the lines of inquiry, by making more extended use of the historical and comparative method than was originally intended, and, in a word, to present a more or less complete survey of the population of the United States from early colonial times down to and including the results of the Twelfth Census, in 1900.

Chapter IV deals with area and total population at each of the twelve census enumerations. The discussion is clarified by maps, charts and excellently arranged tables.

Chapter V treats of the population of counties and their subdivisions, also in an historical manner. A most admirable feature in this chapter is the outline-map method of indicating changes in county lines. Every

state is thus treated and the information in this graphic form is, for many purposes, invaluable.

Chapter VI contains new information relating to the white and negro populations presented in new ways. Such important facts as comparative natural increase, effect of immigration and the increase of white population of native stock are considered in this chapter. In any discussion of birth rates, race suicide, effect of immigration on natural increase of the native element, vital force of the negro element, etc., this chapter may be referred to both for facts and suggestions.

Other chapters containing instructive analyses of the population of the United States from 1790 to 1900 are: Chapter VII, entitled "Sex and Age of the White Population"; Chapter VIII, "Analysis of the Family"; and Chapter IX, "Proportion of Children in White Population."

Chapter X, entitled "Surnames of the White Population in 1790" involved a very considerable amount of labor, but it will prove a storehouse of information to students interested in name origins and derivations. Closely related to Chapter X is Chapter XI entitled "Nationality as Indicated by Names of Heads of Families Reported at the First Census." The facts presented in this chapter, after making full allowance for necessary limitations, are of great interest and importance. Approximate truth is all that can be obtained in this case, but a careful study of the surnames indicates that the English stock contributed 83.5 per cent. of all the white population at the period of the first census (1790), "and if the Scotch and Irish be added, the British stock represented a little more than 90 per cent.; while the Germans contributed slightly less than 6 per cent., and the Dutch 2 per cent." The careful analysis of the New Jersey population of 1790 by Mr. William Nelson is also to be commended. In that state approximately 58 per cent. were English and Welsh, 12.7 per cent. Dutch, 9.2 per cent. German, 7.7 per cent. Scotch, 7.1 per cent. Irish, 2.9 per cent. Swedish and Finnish and 2.1 per cent. French.

Interstate Migration is very briefly discussed in Chapter XII, and the Foreign-Born Population in Chapter XIII. The comparative statistics of the slave population, 1790 to 1860, are presented in Chapter XIV which embraces about ten pages. These statistics are presented in a concise and very admirable manner. It is one of the most convenient and valuable summaries of the statistics of slaves that the writer has ever seen.

Occupations and Wealth constitutes the fifteenth and last chapter of the volume under review. The 1790 census contained no occupation schedules. For a part of Philadelphia and for Southwark, however, such data for heads of families were gratuitously supplied, and those statistics are here presented in detail. Other valuable comparisons are made in this chapter of occupations and wealth as recorded in the six enumerations, 1850 to 1900.

Reference has already been made to the thirty-seven pages of general tables which give in detail the enumerations of populations in North

America prior to 1790, and it only remains to add that the general tables derived from the first and subsequent censuses, 1790 to 1900, fill one hundred and eleven of the quarto pages of this most excellent census report. Finally, to make the volume of the greatest possible utility, there is an index of more than four full pages of three columns each.

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#### WHOLESALE PRICES IN CANADA, 1890-1909.

Special Report by R. H. Coats, B. A., associate editor of the *Labour Gazette*. Government Printing Bureau, Ottawa. 1910. pp. xiii, 509.

For some years past the Canadian *Labour Gazette* has published brief monthly notices of significant changes in retail and wholesale prices. Growing popular interest in the economic problems connected with the recent rise of prices led to the decision of the Department of Labour to take up the compilation of price statistics in a more systematic and comprehensive way. Since February, 1910, the *Labour Gazette* has contained monthly quotations of over thirty items entering into the cost of living, including the retail prices of important commodities of household consumption, together with rentals. Such items are obtained from forty-eight localities. The present volume is the initial installment of a compilation of wholesale prices, which it is planned to continue at regular intervals. As the investigation of wholesale prices was carried backward to 1890 the present publication may be regarded as establishing a foundation for the future continuations, and as such is comparable to the first installment of the series of wholesale prices published by the United States Bureau of Labor.\*

The Canadian report contains the wholesale prices of 230 commodities, which is less by only twenty-eight than the number at present gathered by the American bureau (as the United States Bureau of Labor may for convenience's sake be called). It is announced, moreover, that an increase in the number of price series may be expected in future reports. For the most part these prices are for the first market day of each month, but thirty-one series are given only in the form of annual averages. Most of these thirty-one series are for manufactured commodities for which changes in price are apt to happen infrequently. In the few cases in which monthly prices would have been desirable but were found impossible, we are assured that the yearly averages are "based in each case on expert opinion." In twenty-three cases it was not found possible to begin the series of quotations with 1890, and there are a few other gaps and irregularities, including those resulting from the inclusion of quotations on several varieties of fresh fruit, which are limited, very properly, to the months in which such fruits are in season. On the whole, the data of the report do not compare quite favorably in respect to homogeneity and consistency with the foundation tables of the American bureau,—the only other price tables fairly comparable with the Canadian tables. Even

\* *Bulletin of the Department of Labor*, No. 39, March, 1902.